

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/031,948

Examiner

Patrick J Connolly

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-39.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 07302004.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION***Drawings***

Figures 1 and 3 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-39 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 20, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an interferometric optical block having three planar nominally parallel surfaces with the two outer surfaces adapted to act as beam reflectors for internal light and the third surface in operation acting as a beam splitter and beam combiner, the optical block having an input portion by means of which an input beam of light to be analyzed can be input so as partially to pass through said third surface to be internally reflected by one of said outer reflectors, and partially to be reflected by said third surface so as then to be internally reflected by the other of said outer reflectors whereby light internally reflected by said outer reflectors is combined at said third surface to produce an exit beam, and wherein said outer surfaces have an inclination with respect to one another

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and are asymmetric with respect to said third surface so as to generate in the exit beam a linear fringe field distributed about the zero-order fringe, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 20.

As to claim 39, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method of manufacturing an interferometric optical block having three planar nominally parallel surfaces with the two outer surfaces adapted to act as beam reflectors for internal light and the third surface in operation acting as a beam splitter and beam combiner, the optical block having an input portion by means of which an input beam of light to be analyzed can be input so as partially to pass through said third surface to be internally reflected by one of said outer reflectors, and partially to be reflected by said third surface so as then to be internally reflected by the other of said outer reflectors whereby light internally reflected by said outer reflectors is combined at said third surface to produce an exit beam, and wherein said outer surfaces have an inclination with respect to one another and are asymmetric with respect to said third surface so as to generate in the exit beam a linear fringe field distributed about the zero-order fringe comprising cutting a single wedge element parallel to the wedge section to create two identical wedges and with one such wedge so cut rotated 180°, the lower face of said one wedge being secured to the other wedge to form a monolithic element which provides said optical block, the adjacent faces of the wedges forming said third surface, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 39

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick J Connolly whose telephone number is 571.272.2412. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 7:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J Toatley, Jr. can be reached on 571.272.2800 ext. 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

pjc



Samuel A. Turner
Primary Examiner